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11/01/19
11:40 AM

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Examine
Electric Utility De-Energization of Power
Lines in Dangerous Conditions.

Rulemaking 18-12-005

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING ADVISING PARTIES OF
UPCOMING AMENDED SCOPING MEMO IN RULEMAKING 18-12-005**

This ruling gives parties notice that the current procedural schedule in Rulemaking (R.) 18-12-005 is suspended so that the Commission may focus its efforts on issues that are most critical in light of current wildfires and extensive Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. A new Scoping Memo will issue shortly.

In May 2019, the Commission issued Decision (D.) 19-05-042 adopting PSPS communication and notification guidelines (among other guidelines) in preparation for the 2019 wildfire season. The guidelines adopted in D.19-05-042 built upon those set forth in Resolution ESRB-8,¹ which remain in effect unless specifically superseded by those adopted in D.19-05-042.

On August 14, 2019, then-assigned President Picker released the Phase 2 Scoping Memo and Ruling (Scoping Memo) to address additional issues that were unable to be considered in Phase 1. The Scoping Memo divided Phase 2 into two separate tracks and noted that Track 1 issues would be addressed on an

¹ The Commission adopted Resolution ESRB-8 on July 12, 2018.

expedited basis. Parties submitted opening comments/proposals on Track 1 issues on September 17, 2019 and responses on October 15, 2019.

Since issuance of the Phase 2 Scoping Memo, the utilities have called many PSPS events, several of which have been widespread and have resulted in a loss of power to over 2 million individuals per event. Meanwhile, wildfires continue to flare across Northern and Southern California. On October 18, 2019, the Commission held an emergency meeting on Pacific Gas and Electric Company's planning and execution of recent PSPS events in Northern California. Following that meeting, the Commission, on October 28, 2019 issued a press release (Attachment A) setting forth steps the Commission will take to ensure that "the state's experience this year with PSPS is not repeated."² Included in those actions is a commitment to re-examine the PSPS guidelines adopted in Resolution ESRB-8 and D.19-05-042 and how the utilities deploy PSPS.

In order to refocus the direction of the proceeding to address the pressing issues before us, President Batjer will issue an amended Scoping Memo and Ruling in the near future. As such, the procedural schedule and scope in the August 14, 2019 Scoping Memo is suspended. All previously submitted filings in response to the August 14, 2019 Scoping Memo will remain part of the record of R.18-12-005.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The procedural schedule and scope adopted in the August 14, 2019 Assigned Commissioner's Phase 2 Scoping Memo and Ruling is suspended.

² CPUC October 28, 2019 Press Release: CPUC Takes Decisive Actions to Hold Utilities Accountable and Increase Public Safety.

2. All previously submitted filings in response to the Assigned Commissioner's Phase 2 Scoping Memo and Ruling remain part of the record of Rulemaking 18-12-005.

Dated November 1, 2019, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MELISSA K. SEMCER

Melissa K. Semcer
Administrative Law Judge